

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

Kindly cancel original claims 1 - 15 without prejudice, in favor of new claims 16 - 29.

Claims 1 - 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A dispersant comprising at least one copolymer[[s]] prepared by polymerizing a polymerizable mixture ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

- a) 5 to 70 wt. % of one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated carboxamides, ethylenically unsaturated C<sub>4-8</sub> dicarboxylic acids and anhydrides thereof, and (meth)acrylate monoesters of C<sub>2-8</sub> dialcohols;
- b) 1 to 40 wt. % of one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated compounds with sulfonate or sulfate functional groups,
- c) 10 to 80 wt. % of one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated compounds of polyethylene glycols with 1 to 300 ethylene oxide units and terminal groups selected from the group consisting of OH-groups and ether groups -OR' and mixtures thereof, wherein R' is an alkyl, aryl, alkaryl or aralkyl residue with 1 to 40 C atoms,
- d) [[d)]] 5 to 80 wt. % of one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated compounds of ~~polyethylene~~ polyalkylene glycols with 1 to 300 C<sub>3-4</sub> alkylene oxide units from C<sub>3-4</sub> alkylene groups and terminal groups selected from the group consisting of OH-groups and ether groups -OR' and mixtures thereof, wherein R' is an alkyl, aryl, alkaryl or aralkyl residue with 1 to 40 C atoms, and,
- e) optionally, 0.5 to 10 weight percent of one or more hydrophobic comonomers selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylate esters of C<sub>1-15</sub> alcohols and vinylaromatics.

the weight percentages based on the total weight of the copolymer, and totaling 100 wt. %.

17. (Previously Presented) The dispersant of claim 16, wherein the monomer units a) include one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, and the salts of these carboxylic acids, maleic anhydride, acrylamide, methacrylamide, hydroxyethyl(meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl(meth)acrylate and hydroxybutyl(meth)acrylate.

18. (Previously Presented) The dispersant of claim 16, wherein the monomer units b) include one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of vinylsulfonic acid and alkali and alkaline earth metal salts thereof, styrenesulfonic acid and alkali and alkaline earth metal salts thereof, methallylsulfonic acid and alkali and alkaline earth metal salts thereof, p-methallyloxyphenylsulfonic acid and alkali and alkaline earth metal salts thereof, and sulfonic acids of the general formula  $\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}^1-\text{CO}-\text{X}-\text{CR}^2\text{R}^3-\text{R}^4-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$  and alkali and alkaline earth metal salts thereof, wherein  $\text{X} = \text{O}$  or  $\text{NH}$ , and  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are the same or different and have the meaning H and  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_3$  alkyl, and  $\text{R}^4$  is  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_4$  alkylene.

19. (Previously Presented) The dispersant of claim 16, wherein the monomer units c) include one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylate esters and methacrylate esters of polyethylene glycols  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  and alkyl ethers thereof, the polyethylene glycol containing 1 to 150 ethylene oxide-derived units.

20. (Previously Presented) The dispersant of claim 16, wherein the monomer units d) include one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylate esters and methacrylate esters of polypropylene glycols and polybutylene glycols and  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl ethers thereof, the polypropylene glycols and polybutylene glycols containing 3 to 100 alkylene oxide-derived units.

21. (Previously Presented) The dispersant of claim 16, the monomer units d) include one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylate esters and methacrylate esters of polypropylene glycols and polybutylene glycols which contain 3 to 35

propylene oxide-derived or butylene oxide-derived units respectively, capped with 5 to 80 ethylene oxide-derived units.

22. (Previously Presented) The dispersant of claim 16, hydrophobic comonomer units e), which are (meth)acrylate esters of alcohols with 1 to 15 C atoms or vinylaromatics, are also used as comonomers.

23. (Previously Presented) The dispersant of claim 16, when employed in self-leveling, hydraulically setting mixtures, on loading in the linear viscoelastic region the storage modulus  $G'$  is higher than the loss modulus  $G''$ , on loading outside the linear viscoelastic region a tangent of the loss angle of  $< 80$  results, and on subsequent relaxation within less than 15 mins the storage modulus  $G'$  is again higher than the loss modulus  $G''$ .

24. (Previously Presented) In a process for the spray drying of aqueous polymer dispersions of homo- or copolymers of one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters of unbranched or branched alkylcarboxylic acids with 1 to 18 C atoms, acrylate esters and methacrylate esters of branched and unbranched alcohols with 1 to 15 C atoms, dienes, olefins, vinylaromatics and vinyl halides, in which a dispersant is employed, the improvement comprising selecting as at least one dispersant, a dispersant of claim 16.

25. (Previously Presented) In a hydraulically settable mortar composition wherein a cement plasticizer is employed, the improvement comprising selecting as at least one cement plasticizer, a dispersant of claim 16.

26. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 24, wherein the dispersant is an atomization aid in the spray drying of aqueous dispersions of vinyl acetate homopolymers, copolymers of vinyl acetate with ethylene, copolymers of vinyl acetate with ethylene and one or more other vinyl esters, copolymers of vinyl acetate with ethylene and acrylate esters, copolymers of vinyl acetate with ethylene and vinyl chloride, styrene-acrylate ester copolymers, and/or styrene-1,3-butadiene copolymers.

27. (Previously Presented) A construction chemical composition containing at least one hydraulically setting binder selected from the group consisting of Portland cement, aluminate cement, trass cement, slag cement, magnesia cement, phosphate cement, gypsum, lime, and waterglass, further comprising at least one dispersant of claim 16.

28. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 27, which is a self-leveling floor filler or flowable screed.

29. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 27, wherein said dispersant exhibits a plasticizing action.